

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00287 290031Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 /059 W  
-----125764 290033Z /72

P 282030Z JUL 77  
FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1064  
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY  
AMCONSUL MONTREAL  
ALL OTHER CANADIAN POSTS (BY POUCH)

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, CA  
SUBJ: WILL RENE'S BETTER INSTINCTS OVERCOME?

1. PRIME MINISTER LEVESQUE, IN COURSE OF YESTERDAY'S NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE OF BILL 101, PROMISED FULLEST POSSIBLE "FLEXIBILITY AND UNDERSTANDING" IN APPLYING PROVISIONS OF LANGUAGE LAW WHEN SCHOOLS OPEN IN SEPTEMBER. IN FURTHER ATTEMPT SOFTEN HARSH IMAGE HIS GOVERNMENT HAS ACQUIRED OVER LANGUAGE LAW, LEVESQUE SUGGESTED BILL 101 MIGHT BE AMENDED TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO ENGLISH SCHOOLS TO ALL ANGLOPHONE CHILDREN FROM OTHER CANADIAN PROVINCES, IF HE RECEIVES "LEAST ENCOURAGEMENT" FROM HIS RECIPROCITY OFFER MADE RECENTLY IN LETTERS TO PREMIERS OF OTHER PROVINCES. (QUEBEC 0278)

2. MONTREAL GAZETTE TODAY CLAIMS BOTH LEVESQUE AND PQ PARLIAMENTARY LEADER, ROBERT BURNS, OPPOSE MOVE ALLEGEDLY FAVORED BY HARD-LINERS TO FORCE ADOPTION OF BILL 101 BEFORE OPENING OF SCHOOLS IN SEPTEMBER THROUGH APPLICATION OF CLOTURE TO END LONG DEBATE PROMISED BY OPPOSITION. IN ASSEMBLY, LEVESQUE ALSO RULED OUT QUEBEC PARTICIPATION IN FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE  
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ON MINORITY RIGHTS. SUCH CONFERENCE, HE ASSERTED, WOULD SIMPLY "PROVIDE OTTAWA GOVERNMENT WITH READY-MADE ISSUE OVER WHICH TO CALL AN ELECTION."

3. COMMENT: JUDGING FROM REPLIES RECEIVED FROM OTHER PREMIERS LEVESQUE HAS SUCCEEDED IN GETTING MAJORITY TO AGREE AT LEAST TO DISCUSS QUESTION OF MINORITY RIGHTS AT UPCOMING PREMIERS

CONFERENCE. (THOUGH ALL SEEM TO EXCLUDE FORMAL RECIPROCITY AGREEMENT.) ALTHOUGH LEVESQUE'S SUGGESTION THAT MOST OBJECTION-ABLE SECTION OF BILL 101 MIGHT BE AMENDED IF HE GOT "LEAST ENCOURAGEMENT" IS HARDLY PRECISE ENOUGH TO COMMIT HIM TO ANY DEFINITE LINE OF ACTION, IT DOES APPEAR HE MAY ATTEMPT FORCE HIS OWN HARD-LINERS CONCEDE AMENDMENT ON SCHOOL ENTRANCE IF OTHER PREMIERS ARE SUFFICIENTLY FORTHCOMING IN TERMS OF PROMISES OF EQUALLY FREE ACCESS OF QUEBECOIS TO FRANCOPHONE SCHOOLS IN OTHER PROVINCES. SUCH UNDERTAKINGS--IN PRINCIPLE--PRESUMABLY COULD BE PAINLESSLY GIVEN BY ALL. WE GET IMPRESSION LEVESQUE MAY HAVE CONVINCED MAJORITY TO GRUDGINGLY ACCEPT AMENDMENT RATHER THAN SUFFER DAMAGE TO PQ IMAGE INEVITABLE FROM APPLICATION OF CLOTURE ON DEBATE OF LEGISLATION SO PATENTLY CONTROVERSIAL.  
MCNAMARA

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PROVINCE, SOVEREIGNTY, POLITICAL LEADERS, NEGOTIATIONS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
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**TAGS:** PINT, CA  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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